



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

18 OCT 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Election Year Guidance on Nonpartisanship

1. As the 2 November General Election approaches, we want to remind all Leaders and Voting Assistance Officers to take extra precautions to ensure our voters are not influenced to vote for any one candidate over another. Our Voting Assistance Officers have been fully engaged and working hard to assist our Soldiers, civilians, and eligible family members to register and vote. In the course of these duties we must refrain from any political commentary.
2. Soldiers may register, vote, and express their personal opinions on political candidates and issues, but not as representatives of the Armed Forces. They may also make monetary contributions to a political organization, and attend partisan and nonpartisan political meetings, rallies, or conventions as a spectator when not in uniform.
3. Soldiers are prohibited from using their official position or authority to influence or interfere with an election; affect the course or outcome of an election; solicit votes for a particular candidate or issue; or, require or solicit political contributions from others.
4. This is an incomplete list of permitted and prohibited activities. The DoD Directive 1344.10, Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces, and the Army Website contain DoD election policy guidance for your information and use.
5. Your personal involvement has been invaluable and continues to be essential to ensure that our eligible voters are able to participate in a fair, balanced election process. We appreciate all of the efforts our voting representatives have made, and know they will continue their hard work in the coming weeks. It's your future. Vote for it!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter J. Schoomaker".

PETER J. SCHOOMAKER
General, US Army
Chief of Staff

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R. L. Brownlee".

R. L. Brownlee
Acting Secretary of the Army

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